## Message Text

## UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 07857 221722Z ACTION IO-14

R 221524Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9954

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS GENEVA 07857

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: WHO SWEL

SUBJECT: WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY - USDEL ABORTS EFFORTS

TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION ON NONHUMAN PRIMATES

REF: GENEVA 7464 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. USDEL CALLED OFF ITS EFFORT TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT WHEN FACED WITH EVIDENCE THAT SOME AFRICAN DELEGATES INTENDED TO OPPOSE STRONGLY. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 07857 221722Z

2. IN VIEW OF SERIOUS SITUATION FACED BY WORLD BIO-MEDICINE AS RESULT OF RECENT CURTAILMENT OF SUPPLY OF NONHUMAN PRIMATES (IN PARTICULAR INDIA'S EMBARGO ON EXPORT OF RHESUS MONKEYS), USDEL MADE MAJOR EFFORT IN COURSE OF FIRST TWO WEEKS OF ASSEMBLY TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON "THE URGENT NEED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREEDING COLONIES OF NONHUMAN PRIMATES

FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND FOR THE ASSURANCE OF SAFETY OF DRUGS AND VACCINES". DIRECTOR GENERAL MAHLER HAD EARLIER MADE DIRECT APPROACH TO INDIAN PRIME MINISTER ON SUBJECT OF INDIAN EMBARGO AND BEEN SHARPLY REBUFFED. IDEA BEHIND US INITIATIVE WAS TO HAVE WHO GO ON RECORD AGAIN (IT PASSED RELATED RESOLUTION IN 1976) IN ORDER TO BUILD PRESSURE FOR INDIA'S RECONSIDERATION OF ITS DECISION. THROUGH CONTACTS WITH THE INDIAN DELEGATION, WE DEVELOPED A DRAFT, IN CONSULTATION WITH SECRETARIAT, THAT APPEARED STRONG ENOUGH TO ACHIEVE OUR PURPOSE WHILE STILL BEING SUFFICIENTLY GENERAL TO PERMIT INDIAN DELEGATION TO ABSTAIN RATHER THAN OPPOSE.

- 3. SUPPORT FOR OUR DRAFT WAS GOOD ONCE IT BECAME KNOWN THAT INDIA WOULD NOT OBJECT. CO-SPONSORSHIP WAS OBTAINED FROM ALGERIA, BELGIUM, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, EGYPT, GHANA, IRAN, KENYA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS AND TANZANIA. SUPPORT FROM THE FLOOR WAS PROMISED BY USSR, UK, CANADA, FRG, POLAND, SWEDEN, FRANCE, INDONESIA, AND VENEZUELA.
- 4. JUST BEFORE OUR DRAFT RESOLUTION WENT TO PRINTER ON MAY 19, INDIAN DELEGATE INFORMED US IN SOME ALARM THAT OAU MEMBER DELEGATIONS HAD DECIDED TO OPPOSE, AND THAT THEY WERE PREPARED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO ALLEGE US USE OF NONHUMAN PRIMATES FOR NEUTRON BOMB TESTING. OUR OWN CONTACTS HAD BEGUN TO SUGGEST THAT AFRICAN SUPPORT UNCLASSIFIED

## UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENEVA 07857 221722Z

WAS DROPPING AWAY. CHIEF DELEGATE DR. BRYANT AND DELEGATION ADVISER DR. MALONE CONFERRED AT ONCE WITH WHO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL LAMBO (NIGERIAN), WHO IS CLOSE TO MOST OAU MEMBERS. LAMBO MADE CAREFUL INQUIRIES AND SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THAT, DESPITE HIS OWN EFFORTS IN OUR BEHALF, IT LOOKED AS IF CHANCES OF OAU ACCEPTANCE WERE NO MORE THAN EVEN. RISK THAT SOME AFRICAN DELEGATES WOULD AT LEAST RAISE QUESTION OF US USE OF ANIMALS FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES WAS, LAMBO SAID, QUITE HIGH.

5. BRYANT AND MALONE THEN MET WITH DG MAHLER TO REVIEW ENTIRE MATTER. MAHLER'S CONCLUSION WAS THAT RISK OF CONFRONTATION WAS SUFFICIENTLY REAL TO MAKE IT IMPRUDENT TO PROCEED AS WE HAD PLANNED. HE SUGGESTED THAT INSTEAD USDEL LIMIT ITSELF TO MAKING STRONG INTERVENTION WHEN TOPIC CAME UP IN COMMITTEE A, CALLING ATTENTION TO 1976 RESOLUTION ON SUBJECT AND STRESSING FACT THAT SUPPLY SITUATION IS BECOMING MORE CRITICAL. (USDEL DID SO ON MAY 20, AND CANADA FOLLOWED UP WITH SUPPORTIVE INTERVENTION OF ITS OWN.) MAHLER FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT USDEL BEGIN CONSULTATIONS NOW WITH THE MANY DELEGATIONS THAT HAD EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT US (PROVIDED INDIA

WAS "ON BOARD") WITH A VIEW TO COMING UP WITH AN APPROPRIATE DRAFT RESOLUTION AT NEXT YEAR'S ASSEMBLY. BRYANT AGREED, AND USDEL HAS BEGUN TALKING WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS TO THIS END. VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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